2021 QS World University Rankings by Subject and Faculty

SUMMARY

- In 2021, McMaster was ranked as one of the world's top 300 universities in 26 subject areas and 5 faculties, including 52nd in Life Sciences & Medicine.
- McMaster has 5 subject areas ranked in the top 50: Nursing (15), Sports related Subjects (19), Anatomy & Physiology (37), Medicine (41) and Library & Information Management (47).

BACKGROUND

Subject Rankings

Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings (WUR) by Subject is an annual ranking of the world's top universities in 51 subject areas. Typically, the top 50 scoring universities are ranked individually, whereas institutions ranked above 50 are placed into groups of 50.

To assess and rank each university's quality of education, faculty and research output, QS uses the following four measures:

- Academic Reputation Survey
- Employer Reputation Survey
- Citations per paper
- H-Index

Faculty Rankings

The QS WUR by Faculty scores and ranks universities in five faculty areas (i.e. Arts & Humanities, Engineering & Technology, Life Sciences & Medicine, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences and management). The Ranking applies the same methodology as the Subject level Rankings, and simply aggregates the Subject level information to associated Faculties.

CURRENT STATUS

On March 5, 2021, QS released its annual WUR by Subject and Faculty for 2021. It is important to note that QS constructs an institution's subject profile through citations and reputation votes in a given subject area. Also, subjects are placed into respective Faculty areas by QS that may not align with McMaster's subject to Faculty mapping. For example, QS places "Material Science" under "Natural Sciences" and "Communication and Media Studies" under "Social Science and Management".

QS WUR by Subject

QS only provides a numerical rank to the top 300 institutions in each subject area. In total, McMaster was ranked as one of the world's top 300 institutions in 26 of the 51 subject areas. McMaster increased its rank in 6 of the subject areas, while increasing its score in 7 subject areas (please refer to Appendix A).

Table 1 shows the subject areas where the University ranked among the top 100 globally in 2021. McMaster now has 5 subjects ranked in the top 50 internationally (down from 6 in 2020). McMaster's top 5 subjects remain the same as in previous years, with Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies falling out of the top 50 in 2021. McMaster has 3 additional subject areas that rank in the top 100 (Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies, Mathematics, and Statistics & Operational Research) for a total of 8.

In 2021, Nursing continues to be McMaster's highest ranked subject area at 15th overall, increasing 1 position from last year's ranking. Nursing is followed closely by Sports-related Subjects at 19th overall (up 5 positions from 2020).

Table 1: McMaster University, Top 100 Ranked Subjects, 2020 & 2021

	2020		2021		Δ	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Nursing	16	86.6	15	88.5	1	1.9
Sports-related	24	81.5	19	83.5	5	2.0
Anatomy & Physiology	33	82.8	37	82.7	-4	-0.1
Medicine	45	83.3	41	82.2	4	-1.1
Library & Information Management	34	67.7	47	62.0	-13	-5.7
Mathematics	51-100	74.2	82	74.9	N/C	0.7
Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies	46	72.8	51-100	58.3	Decrease	-14.5
Statistics & Operational Research	51-100	76.3	51-100	73.9	N/C	-2.4

N/R = Not Ranked / N/C = No Change / N/S = No Score

QS WUR by Faculty

Table 2 shows McMaster's faculty area rank in 2020 and 2021. In 2021, McMaster fell or kept the same rank in all faculty areas, with the largest decreases coming in Social Sciences & Management and Natural Sciences. These two faculty areas experienced large drops despite an increased or maintained overall score. This indicates that the average score in these faculty areas have increased and the pool of competition is stronger.

Table 2: McMaster University, Faculty Area Rankings and Scores, 2020 & 2021

	2020		2021		Δ	
	Rank	Score	Rank	Score	Rank	Score
Arts & Humanities	281	65.7	281	64.4	N/C	-1.3
Engineering & Technology	185	71.0	194	69.7	-9	-1.3
Life Sciences & Medicine	52	80.0	52	80.1	N/C	0.1
Natural Sciences	212	69.6	228	69.6	-16	N/C
Social Sciences & Management	258	65.9	276	66.1	-18	0.2

APPENDIX A: McMaster University Ranked Subjects, 2021 QS WUR by Subject

		2020		2021			Δ	
		Subject Rank	Weighted Score	Subject Rank	Canada Rank	Weighted Score	Subject Rank	Weighted Score
Arts & Humanities	Archaeology	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/S
	Architecture	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/S
	Art & Design	N/R	37.2	N/R	N/R	37.1	N/R	-0.1
	Classics & Ancient History	N/R	65.2	N/R	N/R	61.3	N/R	-3.9
	English Language & Literature	151-200	62.9	151-200	9	61.5	N/C	-1.4
	History	151-200	67.1	101-150	4	64.2	Increase	-2.9
	Linguistics	N/R	43.8	201-250	11	54.6	Increase	10.8
	Modern Languages	N/R	59.9	N/R	N/R	54.8	N/R	-5.1
	Performing Arts	N/R	39.3	N/R	N/R	29.5	N/R	-9.8
	Philosophy	N/R	55.2	N/R	N/R	45.1	N/R	-10.1
	Theology, Divinity & Religious Studies	46	72.8	51-100	4	58.3	Decrease	-14.5
Engineering & Technology	Computer Science & Information Systems	201-250	62.8	201-250	10	61.2	N/C	-1.6
	Engineering - Chemical	101-150	70.3	101-150	6	64.9	N/C	-5.4
	Engineering - Civil & Structural	N/R	65.8	N/R	N/R	64.6	N/R	-1.2
	Engineering - Electrical & Electronic	151-200	66.0	151-200	7	62.4	N/C	-3.6
	Engineering - Mechanical, Aeronautical & Manufacturing	101-150	71.2	134	6	63.6	N/C	-7.6
	Engineering - Mineral & Mining	N/R	56.1	N/R	N/R	58.5	N/R	2.4
	Engineering – Petroleum	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/S
Life Sciences & Medicine	Agriculture & Forestry	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/S
	Anatomy & Physiology	33	82.8	37	5	82.7	-4	-0.1
	Biological Sciences	151-200	70.1	151-200	5	69.3	N/C	-0.8
	Dentistry	N/R	40.3	N/R	N/R	37.0	N/R	-3.3
	Medicine	45	83.3	41	4	82.2	4	-1.1
	Nursing	16	86.6	15	3	88.5	1	1.9
	Pharmacy and Pharmacology	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/S
	Psychology	151-200	69.9	151-200	8	70.6	N/C	0.7
	Veterinary Science	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	52.4	N/R	N/S
Natural Sciences	Chemistry	201-250	69.1	201-250	9	65.7	N/C	-3.4
	Earth & Marine Sciences	N/R	70.7	N/R	N/R	69.5	N/R	-1.2
	Environmental Sciences	201-250	71.6	151-200	7	74.0	Increase	2.4
	Geography	151-200	63.8	151-200	9	59.6	N/C	-4.2
	Geology	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	70.3	N/R	N/S
	Geophysics	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	69.1	N/R	N/S
	Materials Science	51-100	76.9	101-150	4	64.7	Decrease	-12.2
	Mathematics	51-100	74.2	82	6	74.9	N/C	0.7
	Physics & Astronomy	201-250	67.5	251-300	7	64.7	Decrease	-2.8

		2020		2021			Δ	
		Subject Rank	Weighted Score	Subject Rank	Canada Rank	Weighted Score	Subject Rank	Weighted Score
Social Sciences & Management	Accounting & Finance	251-300	54.2	251-300	13	53.7	N/C	-0.5
	Anthropology	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/S
	Business & Management Studies	251-300	61.2	251-300	11	60.8	N/C	-0.4
	Communication & Media Studies	N/R	53.3	N/R	N/R	65.3	N/R	12
	Development Studies	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/S
	Economics & Econometrics	251-300	60.2	251-300	10	60.1	N/C	-0.1
	Education & Training	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/S
	Hospitality & Leisure Management	N/R	40.5	N/R	N/R	35.0	N/R	-5.5
	Law & Legal Studies	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/R	N/S	N/R	N/S
	Library & Information Management	34	67.7	47	6	62.0	-13	-5.7
	Politics & International Studies	N/R	52.6	N/R	N/R	38.3	N/R	-14.3
	Social Policy & Administration	N/R	66.7	N/R	N/R	65.1	N/R	-1.6
	Sociology	151-200	63.4	251-300	11	58.0	Decrease	-5.4
	Sports-related Subjects	24	81.5	19	4	83.5	5	2
	Statistics & Operational Research	51-100	76.3	51-100	4	73.9	N/C	-2.4

N/R = Not Ranked / N/C = No Change / N/S = No Score
Note: For its Faculty Area and Subject Level Rankings, QS may map certain subject areas under Faculty Areas that do not align with McMaster's subject to faculty mapping.